

such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and community based-organizations. The bill will also provide incentives for the use of technology and other tools to improve care transitions.

Transitions from hospital to home can be complicated and risky, especially for individuals with multiple chronic illnesses. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over correct use of medications, and uncertainty over their prognosis. In cases where multiple providers are involved, patients often get conflicting instructions from different providers.

Researchers with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have estimated that inadequate care coordination, including inadequate management of care transitions, was responsible for \$25 to \$45 billion in wasteful spending in 2011 through avoidable complications and unnecessary hospital readmissions.

In its June 2012 Report, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) highlighted the need for an explicit payment for transitional care services, given the documented evidence that effective and coordinated care transitions improve health outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and generate significant savings to the U.S. health care system. The Congressional Budget Office has echoed these findings. In a report documenting lessons from Medicare's demonstration projects, the CBO emphasized that "programs that smoothed transitions (for example, by providing additional education and support to patients moving from a hospital to a nursing facility or between a primary care provider and a specialist) tended to have fewer hospital admissions."

It is our hope that stakeholders involved in the care delivery system will carefully evaluate this legislation and provide comments or suggested improvements to me and the other sponsors. We are interested in ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to the different circumstances and settings in which these transitions occur.

Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. I thank my cosponsors and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 28, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "aye."

THANKING MARA SACCENTE FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many friends, family and colleagues who have gathered to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mara Saccente who served as a member of my District staff for 15 years. As a Caseworker and Scheduler, Mara dedicated an enormous amount of her personal time and energies to addressing the needs and concerns of the residents of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District and I cannot thank her enough for all the outstanding work she has done.

A native of Orange, Connecticut, during her senior year at the University of Connecticut, Mara spent the fall semester as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. She was energetic and full of enthusiasm, assisting our press secretary and writing constituent correspondence. It was fortunate timing that upon her graduation, I had an opening for a caseworker in my District Office. Mara officially came on board on July 1, 1998. During the first three years of her tenure, she was responsible for a variety of casework areas including issues with Social Security, immigration, and the environment. Her compassion and understanding lent itself to the position and she thrived—the myriad of thank you notes she received is a testament to the difference she was able to make in the lives of others.

As anyone in this Chamber can understand, the position of scheduling in a Congressional office requires a unique combination of patience and organization as well as the ability to manage the many personalities of constituents vying for your time. With a seemingly never ending list of events, invitations, and meetings coming in, in the twelve years that Mara served as my district scheduler, she managed to balance it all with both poise and integrity—earning a distinguished reputation among her colleagues and the many community members she interacted with every day.

Though I can hardly figure out where she was able to find the time, Mara is also very involved with her community. A member of Or Shalom Synagogue, she served as Secretary of the Board of Directors, she has been a leader for her daughter's Girl Scouts troop, as well as an active member of the PTA and the local Democratic Town Committee. Mara's strong desire to give back to her community has made a real difference and serves as an example to us all of how one person's actions can enrich the lives of others.

Mara has embarked on a new professional endeavor, however, she will always be more than just a staffer or a colleague—she is family. I, like all of those who have had the opportunity to work with her, will miss her. Today, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Mara Saccente for all of her good work both on my behalf and that of the residents of the 3rd Congressional District. I wish her, her husband, Ken, and their children, Anna and Nathan, as well as her parents, Paul and

Debbie Davis, the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 8TH ANNUAL DC LATINO PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, the national capital region's celebration of our Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The Washington, DC metropolitan area has had an identifiable Latino LGBT community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until the first LGBT March in Washington in 1987. DC Latino Pride's parent organization, the Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Project, began in 2000. The organization grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who, in turn, organized the first DC Latino Pride, in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held the day before the annual Capital Pride parade to this year's series of events between May 25 and June 5. The Latino Pride events include La Coronación on May 25th; La Plática, a panel discussion at the Human Rights Campaign on May 29th; La Fe, a bilingual worship service with the Metropolitan Community Church Ministerio Español and Grupo Latino Dignidad de Washington on May 31st, and La Fiesta Latino Dance Party at Towne Danceboutique on June 5th.

The Latino and Latino gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender GLBT History Project and Empoderate Youth Center of La Clínica del Pueblo jointly host DC Latino Pride and coordinate this celebration with their partners: El Zol Radio 107.9, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the DC Office of Human Rights, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, the Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs, D&P Creative Strategies, Brother Help Thyself, The DC Center, GLOV, the Raben Goup, Lambda Legal, Whitman Walker, Reasons, Verizon, Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, Latinos Ready for Hilary, Identity, and Food & Friends.

This year's organizers include: David M. Pérez, President; Esther Hidalgo, Vice President of Historical Archives; José Gutierrez, Founder & Historical Archives Co-Chair; Jorge A. Soto, Secretary; Wilmer Gutiérrez, Treasurer; May Sifuentes, Finance Committee Co-Chair; Board Members Jose Plaza and Alexa Rodríguez; José Ramírez, Outreach Chair; Jennifer Sánchez, Outreach Committee; and Jesús "Chuche" Chavez, Program Coordinator.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the Latino GLBT History Project's officers, board, and volunteers for work well done, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.